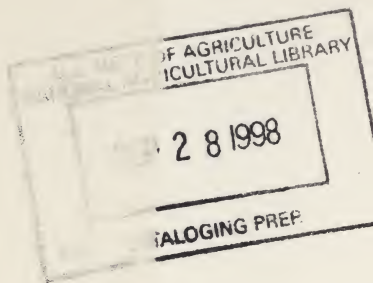


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SCIENTISTS working for SCIENCE & the Nation



Cooperative State Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250
August 1977

Some of the benefits of working as a scientist in CSRS:

- a chance to be on the national scene, to be a part of the action at that level.
- opportunity to interact with scientists and research administrators from all over the nation, and from different areas of the government.
- personal national exposure and impact as you work with CSRS for your field of science.
- a chance to view your discipline from a national point of view, and as it relates to other disciplines.
- an opportunity to learn Federal procedures of a granting agency.
- a chance to help improve communication between CSRS and State research organizations.
- a chance for you and your family to be exposed to all the excitement, culture, sports, history, and variety of the Washington area.

The Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS) has a central role in administering certain Federal funds for State research in agriculture and forestry; and in coordinating aspects of the cooperative State-Federal research system for agriculture and forestry.

This brochure will give prospective permanent and temporary scientist employees information about the agency and the job that they would perform were they with the agency.

CSRS works directly with the State agricultural experiment stations, the forestry schools, and 1890 universities and Tuskegee Institute. These are our main client institutions. However, we also deal with many other State and Federal organizations interested in agricultural and forestry research.

CSRS has two kinds of scientists:

- a permanent staff based in Washington, D.C., that represent a wide range of disciplines in agriculture and forestry, home economics, and social sciences; and
- scientists on leave from client state research institutions who join our Washington, D.C. staff for nine to twelve months under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act.

This combination gives CSRS some flexibility to meet changing needs in our program and those of our client institutions. It also provides a two-way flow between CSRS and our client institutions that is most valuable for keeping our efforts up to date and on target.

These scientists are outstanding in their fields and bring considerable research experience and expertise to the job.

Scientific expertise is the backbone of CSRS. We are responsible for:

- overseeing expenditures of a variety of federal funds that support agricultural and forestry research in State research units;
- helping evaluate State research units, and helping them plan ahead;
- fostering cooperation among State research units and between States and Federal research units;
- helping develop budget support materials and statements for CSRS presentation to the Department of Agriculture, Congress, etc.;
- answering a myriad of questions related to agriculture and forestry, from where to go to school, to what crop research is going on, to how many scientists are there, and where to find a rice farm close to New York City! It takes a broad-gauge, up-to-date, competent, dedicated scientist to do these things.

Let's get to specifics. A scientist with CSRS will have all or many of the following kinds of experiences and responsibilities, depending on the discipline and assignment;

On-site reviews

1. **Special Reviews.** Here the emphasis is on conducting the review cooperatively with the research unit involved. As colleagues, we and they examine just where the unit has been with its research (and sometimes extension and teaching) programs, what the current situation and projected needs are, where this says the research program should be going, and then together try to identify how the unit can begin to adjust its programs to meet those needs.

2. Project-by-project reviews of research underway at a State research unit. While a department may ask us for this kind of review or we may instigate it ourselves, we are de-emphasizing it for the special reviews we and many of our clients see as usually more productive.

For both types of reviews, a team of scientists from CSRS and State and Federal research units, as well as occasionally scientists from industry, usually makes the review.

Regional-National Planning

We are committed to participation in such planning, and to getting it done. Priorities must be set for research. There just aren't the resources to do otherwise. Yet these priorities must not throttle scientists so that our country lacks the breadth and depth of research needed. Our scientists work with various regional and national groups in the formal research planning system set up under the Agricultural Research Policy Advisory Committee. The planning involves State, Federal, and industry researchers and administrators.

Special Assignments

Scientists in CSRS are called on at times to perform a variety of duties in addition to those directly related to research underway. These include:

- responding to legislative matters, inter-agency committees, task forces, and ad-hoc groups.
- handling special programs such as the US USSR scientific exchanges.
- helping organize information and efforts for special areas of need, such as energy, pollution, animal health, and food.

These special assignments offer a unique challenge and often a rewarding experience.

Budget Preparation

This is an annual event. We rely heavily on our scientist staff to help provide evidences of research accomplishments that demonstrate what research has done and can do.

Project Reviews

Our scientists review all project proposals, and many of the other documents related to formal projects—and may make recommendations on each. This workload is a continuing one as State researchers report their plans and progress. State non-federally funded projects also are reviewed before they are forwarded to the Current Research Information System (CRIS). CRIS is an automated computerized storage and retrieval system that contains most of the information about current agricultural and forestry research projects supported by public funds.

Regional Technical Committees

Our scientists are assigned as agency representatives to Regional Research Committees related to their expertise. There are close to 200 funded regional technical committees.

Cross-discipline Responsibilities

The nature of problems is such that they often do not fit neatly into a single research discipline represented on our staff—water resources, energy, pesticides, weather, for example. We may identify one of our staff to be the focal point for concerns regarding that problem. That person then takes the lead in matters pertaining to that problem—helping develop research needs, prepare budgets, identify research expertise, analyze research participation, etc. Often these assignments mean working with others in CSRS, with other USDA agencies and others such as the National Science Foundation, National Air and Space Agency, the Corps of Engineers, etc.

Self-imposed Assignments

An energetic, outstanding staff of scientists such as ours also identifies tasks they would like to perform in addition to the ones officially assigned. Examples: a special analysis of the state of the art in a particular area of research, special analyses

of CRIS information, preparation of scientific papers, and many other tasks which the fertile minds of scientists can develop.

Participation in Professional Societies

We encourage this. It is another way our staff keeps up to date and in the mainstream of what is going on in their respective disciplines. In addition, as they participate in reviews and committees, each staff member becomes increasingly better known by colleagues and also increasingly more valuable in the various activities of that organization.

This is a brief picture of what the role of a CSRS scientist is like. If you're interested in exploring the possibilities of a permanent or temporary position with the scientist staff of CSRS, write:

Administrator
Cooperative State Research Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

The United States Department of Agriculture is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All Cooperative State Research Service programs are available without regard to race, color, sex, or national origin.

